Message Text

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FOR PPT/U W E DUGGAN

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TAGS: CFED, AR INFORMATION FOR FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUBJECT: INFORMATION FOR FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON FALSE IDENTIFICATION

REF: DEPT'S OMS OF MARCH 26, 1976 AND JAN 23 AND 25, 1976

PURSUANT TO QUESTIONAIRE ATTACHED TO OM OF JANUARY 23, 1976, THE FOLLOWING RESPONSES ARE PROVIDE.

- 1. ARGENTINE IDENTITY DOCUMENT (CEDULA) IS CONSIDERED THE STANDARD IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENT IN ARGENTINA.
- 2. ARGENTINE IDENTITY DOCUMENTS ARE ISSUED TO ALL PERSONS RESIDING IN ARGENTINA. THEY ARE ISSUED BY THE ARGENTINE FEDERAL POLICE AUTHORTIES UPON PRESENTATION OF AN ORIGINAL OR CERTIFIED BIRTH CERTIFICATE. ARGENTINE FEDERAL POLICE AUTHORITIES ALSO ISSUE ARGENTINE PASSPORT TO THEIR CITIZENS. DIPLOMATIC AND OFFICIAL PASSPORTS ARE ISSUED BY THE ARGENTINE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND WORSHIP.
- 3. NOT APPLICABLE.
- 4. TEMPORARY VISITORS ARE NOT ISSUED IDENTITY DOCUMENTS OR "DECULAS" THEIR PASSPORT ARE STAMPED REFLECTING THEY ARE TOURISTS IN ARGENTINA.

PERMANENT RESIDENTS ARE ISSUED "CEDULAS" OR IDENTITY DOCUMENTS BY THE FEDERAL POLICE OR BY THE OFFICE OF THE CIVIL REGISTRY (REGISTRO CIVIL).

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THE DOCUMENTS ARE ISSUED UPON PRESENTATION OF A LEGALIZED, OR

CERTIFIED BIRTH CERTIFICATE.

- 5. A) ARGENTINE BIRTH CERTIFICATES ARE ISSUED BY THE OFFICE OF THE CIVIL REGISTRY IN THE CITY WHERE PERSONS WAS BORN UPON PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATIONS FROM MEDICAL DOCTOR AND HOSPITAL ATTESTING TO BIRTH OF THE PERSON.
- B) DEATH CERTIFICATES ARE ISSUED BY THE OFFICE OF THE CIVIL REGISTRY IN THE CITY WHERE THE PERSON DIED. IT IS ISSUED UPON PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE FROM A MEDICAL DOCTOR.
- C) DRIVERS' LICENCES ARE ISSUED BY THE MUNICIPALITY OF BUENOS AIRES. THESE LICENSES ARE NOT CONSIDERED AN IDENTITY DOCUMENT BUT MERELY A DOCUMENT PERMITTING THE PERSON TO DRIVE AN AUTOMOBILE.
- 6. AT THE PRESENT TIME IN ARGENTINE, THERE IS NO REPEAT NO SYSTEMS FOR MATCHING DEATH CERTIFICATES WITH BIRTH CERTIFICATES.
- 7. FOGERY IS PUNISHABLE BY IMPRISONMENT IN JAIL FROM SIX MONTHS TO TWO YEARS. IF THE PERSONA HAS NO PREVIOUS POLICE RECORD HIS SENTENCE MAY BE WAIVED AN PLACED ON PROBATION.
- 8. ACCORDING TO ARGENTINE PENAL CODE, ARTICLE #292, FRAUDULENT USE OF PERSONAL IDENTITY DOCUMENTS MAY RESULT IN JAIL SENTENCE OF 2 YEARS OR LONGER. HOWEVER, ON OCCASIONS JUDICIAL AND POLICE AUTHORITIES ARE KNOWN NOT ENFORCE THE LAW VERY STRICTLY, AND THERE ARE CASES WHERE SOME PEOPLE WERE ABLE TO OFFER CERTAIN LARGESSE TO ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES IN ORDER TO HAVE CRIMINAL CHARGES DROPPED OR SENTENCES SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED.
- 9. THERE IS AN OFFICE OF INTERPORL HERE IN BUENOS AIRES WHICH INVESTIGATES CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING THE OBTAINING OR USE OF FRAUDULENT IDENTITY DOCUMENTS. INTERPOL BUENOS AIRES HAS COOPERATED WITH EMBASSY IN PERFORMING REQUESTED INVESTIGATIONS IN A FEW CASES INVOLVING FALSE ARGENTINE PASSPORTS WHICH WERE UTLIZED IN AN ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN U.S. TOURIST VISAS AT THE EMBASSY.
- 10. THERE EXISTS IN ARGENTINE THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY LAW (DERECHO DE INTIMIDAD) ENFORCED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE ARGENTINE CIVIL CODE. THE CONTENTS ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE OF THE PRIVACY ACT IN THE UNITED STATES.

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11. CONSULAR OFFICERS FEEL THERE ARE TWO AREAS WHERE IDENTIFICATION FRAUD MAY BE PREVALENT. ONE AREA IS IN THE COMPARATIVELY EASY PROCEDURE IN OBTAINING A BIRTH CERTIFICATE IN ARGENTINA. WITH MERELY NOTES FROM AN ARGENTINE MEDICAL DOCTOR AND HOSPITAL, A BIRTH CERTIFICATE WILL BE ISSUED BY THE ARGENTINE CIVIL REGISTRY (REFER TO RESPONSE NO.5). THIS PROCEDURE HAS GIVEN RISE TO AT LEAST 18 REPORTED DOCUMENTATION FRAUD CASES, REVEALED DURING INTERVIEW BY CONSULAR OFFICERS, WHEREBY AMERICAN CITIZENS IN ARGENTINA OBTAINED

FALSE NOTES FROM ARGENTINE MEDICAL DOCTORS AND THEIR AFFILIATED HOSPITALS CERTIFYING AN AMERICAN CITIZEN GAVE BITRTH TO A CHILD HERE IN ARGENTINA.

WITH THE ARGENTINE BIRTH CERTIFICATE MISREPRESENTING PARENTAGE, THE AMERICAN CITIZEN PARENT ELIBIGLE TO TRANSMIT U.S. CITIZENSHIP TO CHILD WOULD APPEAR AT CONSULAR SECTION ATTEMPTING TO DOCUMENT CHILD AS U.S. CITIZEN RATHER THAN PROCESS CASE THROUGH LEGAL ARGENTINE CHILD ADOPTION PROCEDURES. ANOTHER AREA OF PROBABLE DOCUMENT FRAUD IS IN THE USE BY UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS OF U.S. PASSPORTS WHICH ARE LOST OR STOLEN IN ARGENTINE. DURING 1975, EMBASSY RECORDS INDICATE TEHERE WAS A TOTAL OF 62 U.S. PASSPORTS REPORTED LOST OR STOLEN, WITH ONLY 8 OF THEM EVENTUALLY

FOUND AND RETURNED TO EMBASSY. THOSE U.S. PASSPORTS NEVER RECOVERED COULD VERY WELL HAVE BEEN UTILIZED BY UNSCRUPULOUS PERSONS TO ILLEGALLY TRAVEL TO OTHER COUNTRIES OR ENTER AND DEPART FROM THE UNITED STATES FOR PURPOSES OF DRUG TRAFFICKING, SMUGGLING AND OTHER CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES.

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